

By unanimous consent, the title was amended so as to read: "An Act to amend laws authorizing auditing, reporting, and other functions by the General Accounting Office."

A motion to reconsider the votes whereby the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed and the title was amended was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

¶101.16 UKRAINE INDEPENDENCE

Mr. GILMAN, pursuant to the order of the House of August 1, 1996, moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 120); as amended:

Whereas August 24, 1996, marks the fifth anniversary of the independence of Ukraine;

Whereas the independent State of Ukraine is a member State of the United Nations and the United Nations has established in Ukraine an office to assist Ukraine in building relations with the international community and in coordinating international assistance for Ukraine;

Whereas the independent State of Ukraine is a member State of the Council of Europe, the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Central European Initiative, and the North Atlantic Cooperation Council of the North Atlantic Alliance, is a participant in the Partnership for Peace program of the North Atlantic Alliance, and has entered into a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with the European Union;

Whereas the United States recognized Ukraine as an independent State on December 25, 1991;

Whereas Ukraine is a major European nation, having the second largest territory and sixth largest population of all the States of Europe;

Whereas Ukraine has an important geopolitical and economic role to play within Central and Eastern Europe and a strong, stable, and secure Ukraine serves the interests of peace and stability in all of Europe, which is also an important national security interest of the United States;

Whereas Ukraine conducted its first presidential and parliamentary elections as an independent State in 1994, carrying such elections out in a free and fair manner and moving further away from the former communist model of one-party, centralized, totalitarian rule;

Whereas Ukraine's presidential elections of July 1994 resulted in the first peaceful transfer of executive power in any of the independent States of the former Soviet Union;

Whereas on June 28, 1996, the Parliament of Ukraine adopted a new constitution for Ukraine;

Whereas Ukraine's economic and social stability depend on its ability to build a stable market-based economy and a legal system based on the rule of law, attract foreign investment, improve tax and revenue collection, and build its export sectors;

Whereas Ukraine was the first of the independent states of the former Soviet Union to have appointed a civilian to the office of Minister of Defense, an historic precedent in support of civilian control and oversight of the armed forces of Ukraine;

Whereas Ukraine is pursuing political and economic reforms intended to ensure its future strength, stability, and security and to ensure that it will assume its rightful place among the international community of democratic States and in European and trans-Atlantic institutions;

Whereas through the agreement by the Government of Ukraine to the establishment

of a mission from the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe in the region of Crimea, Ukraine has shown its interest in avoiding the use of force in resolving ethnic and regional disputes within Ukraine;

Whereas all nuclear weapons were removed from Ukraine by June 1, 1996, and Ukraine has taken very positive steps in supporting efforts to stem proliferation of nuclear weapons by ratifying the START-I Treaty on nuclear disarmament and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

Whereas in December 1994, the Presidents of the United States and the Russian Federation and the Prime Minister of Great Britain signed a Memorandum on National Security Assurances for Ukraine as depository States under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

Whereas the Secretary of Defense of the United States and the Minister of Defense of Ukraine signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of defense and military relations on July 27, 1993;

Whereas Ukraine has sought to promote constructive cooperation with its neighbors through humanitarian assistance and through mediation of disputes;

Whereas Ukraine has provided Ukrainian troops as part of the international peace-keeping force meant to prevent the spread of conflict in the states of the former Yugoslavia; and

Whereas Ukraine has acted in defense of its sovereignty and that of other newly independent states by opposing the emergence of any political or military organization which has the potential to promote the reintegration of the states of the former Soviet Union: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) Ukraine has made significant progress in political reform in its first 5 years of independence and that it is to be congratulated for the successful conduct of free and fair elections for the presidency and parliament and for the adoption of a new constitution;

(2) the territorial integrity of Ukraine in its existing borders is an important element of European peace and stability;

(3) the President and Parliament of Ukraine should focus their efforts on passing legislation needed to implement the new democratic constitution;

(4) the Government of Ukraine should continue its efforts to ensure the rights of all citizens of Ukraine regardless of their ethnic or religious background;

(5) the Government of Ukraine should make its first priority the dismantling of the remaining socialist sectors of its economy, particularly by speedily privatizing medium and large state-owned enterprises, privatizing state and collective farms and ending their monopolistic control of the agro-industrial sector, and fostering a competitive market-based energy sector;

(6) the Government of Ukraine should make the necessary institutional and legal reforms to create a stable tax regime, foster market-based competition, protect the right to private property, and make other changes that build a positive climate for foreign investment;

(7) the Government of Ukraine should make it a priority to build the institutional capacity and legal framework needed to fight crime and corruption effectively in a democratic environment;

(8) the Government of Ukraine should continue its cooperative efforts with the "G-7" group of States to safely and expeditiously shut down the nuclear reactors at Chernobyl, Ukraine;

(9) the President of the United States should support continued United States assistance to Ukraine for its political and eco-

nomics reforms, for efforts associated with the safe and secure dismantlement of its weapons of mass destruction, and for the increased safety of operation of its civilian nuclear reactors, and assistance for the establishment of rule of law, for criminal justice and law enforcement training, and for the promotion of trade and investment, and in this regard United States assistance to the Ukraine should leverage private-sector involvement as much as possible;

(10) the President of the United States should urge that the Government of the Russian Federation, in line with the assurances for the security of Ukraine made by the President of the Russian Federation in the January 1994 Trilateral Statement on Nuclear Disarmament in Ukraine, offer Ukraine its promised highest possible cooperation, fully and finally recognizing Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and refraining from any economic coercion of Ukraine;

(11) the Government of Ukraine should continue to act in defense of its sovereignty and that of the other independent states of the former Soviet Union by opposing the emergence of any political or military organization which would have the potential to promote the reintegration of the states of the former Soviet Union;

(12) the President of the United States should ensure that Ukraine's national security interests are fully considered in any review of European security arrangements and understandings;

(13) the President of the United States should support continued United States security assistance for Ukraine, including assistance for training of military officers, military exercises as part of the North Atlantic Alliance's Partnership for Peace program, and appropriate military equipment to assist Ukraine in maintaining its defensive capabilities as it reduces its military force levels;

(14) the President of the United States should ensure the United States Government's continued efforts to assist Ukraine in its accession to the World Trade Organization; and should ensure, in particular, that the potential for aerospace and space cooperation and commerce between the United States and Ukraine is fully and appropriately exploited; and

(15) as a leader of the democratic nations of the world, the United States should continue to support the people of Ukraine in their struggle to bring peace, prosperity, and democracy to Ukraine and to the other independent states of the former Soviet Union.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. WICKER, recognized Mr. GILMAN and Mr. HAMILTON, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and agree to said concurrent resolution, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. WICKER, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

Mr. GILMAN objected to the vote on the ground that a quorum was not present and not voting.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. WICKER, pursuant to clause 5, rule I, announced that further proceedings on the motion were postponed.

The point of no quorum was considered as withdrawn.

¶101.17 VOICE OF AMERICA RECORDINGS

Mr. GILMAN, pursuant to the order of the House of August 1, 1996, moved

to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3916) to make available certain Voice of America and Radio Marti multilingual computer readable text and voice recordings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. WICKER, recognized Mr. GILMAN and Mr. HAMILTON, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. WICKER, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said bill was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

¶101.18 RECLAMATION RECYCLING AND WATER CONSERVATION

Mr. DOOLITTLE, pursuant to the order of the House of August 1, 1996, moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3660) to make amendments to the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act, and for other purposes; as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. WICKER, recognized Mr. DOOLITTLE and Mr. MILLER of California, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. WICKER, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider the votes whereby the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

¶101.19 FORT PECK RURAL COUNTY WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

Mr. DOOLITTLE, pursuant to the order of the House of August 1, 1996, moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill of the Senate (S. 1467) to authorize the construction of the Fort Peck Rural County Water Supply System, to authorize assistance to the Fort Peck Rural County Water District Inc., a nonprofit corporation, and for the planning, design, and construction of the water supply system, and for other purposes; as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. WICKER, recognized Mr. DOOLITTLE and Mr. MILLER of California, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. WICKER, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said amendment.

¶101.20 KENAI NATIVES ASSOCIATION EQUITY

Mr. DOOLITTLE, pursuant to the order of the House of August 1, 1996, moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 401) entitled the "Kenai Natives Association Equity Act"; as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. WICKER, recognized Mr. DOOLITTLE and Mr. MILLER of California, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. WICKER, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

¶101.21 LAKE TAHOE BASIN NATIONAL FOREST

Mr. DOOLITTLE pursuant to the order of House of August 1, 1996, moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2122) to designate the Lake Tahoe Basin National Forest in the States of California and Nevada to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. WICKER, recognized Mr. DOOLITTLE and Mr. MILLER of California, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. WICKER, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

¶101.22 NEVADA BOUNDARY CORRECTION

Mr. DOOLITTLE, pursuant to the order of the House of August 1, 1996, moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2135) to provide for the correction of boundaries of certain lands in Clark County, Nevada, acquired by persons who purchased such lands in good faith reliance on existing private land surveys; as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. WICKER, recognized Mr. DOOLITTLE and Mr. MILLER of California, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. WICKER, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed.

By unanimous consent, the title was amended so as to read: "An Act to provide for the relief of certain persons in Clark County, Nevada, who purchased lands in good faith reliance on existing private land surveys."

A motion to reconsider the votes whereby the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed and the title was amended was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

¶101.23 HANFORD REACH PRESERVATION

Mr. DOOLITTLE, pursuant to the order of the House of August 1, 1996, moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2292) to preserve and protect the Hanford Reach of Columbia River, and for other purposes; as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. WICKER, recognized Mr. DOOLITTLE and Mr. MILLER of California, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. WICKER, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said bill, as amended, was passed was, by the unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.